

THE DAILY EMPIRE.

STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

The PLATFORM ADOPTED

JANUARY 8th, A. D. 1867.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved. That the Democracy of Ohio steadfastly adheres to the principles of the party, as embodied by its fathers, and approves by experience: that in accordance with these principles we declare that the Federal Government is a government of limited powers, and that it possesses no powers but such as are expressly, or by necessary implication delegated to it in the Federal Constitution; that all other powers are reserved to the states or the people; that a strict construction of the Constitution is indispensable to the preservation of the reserved rights of the States and the people; that all grants of power to Government, whether State or Federal, should be strictly construed, because all such grants abridge the natural rights of men; that the preservation of the equality and rights of the States, and the rights of the people, is necessary to the preservation of the Union; that the Federal Government is unfitted to legislate for or administer the local concerns of the States; that it would be better for the Union that the affairs of the States should be regulated by a Federal Congress, in which she has but two Senators, and the New England States, with but a little greater population, have twelve; that the tendency of the Federal Government is to usurp the reserved rights of the States and of the people; and that, therefore, a centralization of power in its hands is an ever pending danger. That such an absorption of power would, while it lasted, be destructive of the liberties and interests of the people, and would end either in despotism or a destruction of the Union; that a National debt, besides impoverishing the people, fosters an undue increase of the power of the Federal Government; that high protective tariffs have a like effect, sacrificing the interests of the many, for the emoluments of the few, and plainly violating the equity and spirit of the Constitution; that the collection and disbursement of enormous sums by the Federal Government have the same tendency, beside corrupting the Government, so that, therefore, economy is essential, not only to the prosperity, but also to the liberties of the people; that unequal taxation is a plain violation of justice, of which no Government can safely be guilty.

That to each State belongs the right to determine the qualification of its electors, and all attempts to impair this right, either by Congressional legislation or Constitutional amendment, are unwise and despotic; that the tendency of power is to steal from the many to the few, and that, therefore, eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; that the tendency of government is to enlarge its authority by usurpation, and therefore government needs to be watched; that another of its tendencies is to govern too much—unnecessarily and vexatiously interfering with the business and habits of the people; that freedom of speech and of the press is essential to the existence of liberty; that no person not in the military or naval service, or in the bounds where martial law legitimately prevails, can lawfully be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of civil law; that the courts should always be open for the redress of grievances; that no *ex post facto* law should be made; that the right of the people to peaceably assemble and consult upon public affairs is inviolable; that the military should be held in due subjection to the civil power; that while the majority, as prescribed by the Constitution, have the right to govern, the minority have indefensible rights; and that frequent recurrence to first principles is essential to the welfare of the State and the people.

Resolved. That the States lately in rebellion are States in the Union, and have been recognized as such by every department of the Government, and by President Lincoln, who, in the midst of the war, invited them to elect members of Congress by President Johnson, in various proclamations and official acts; by Congress, which permitted Andrew Johnson to sit in the Senate as a Senator from Tennessee, and members from Virginia, Tennessee, and Louisiana to sit in the House of Representatives after these States had seceded, and while the war was being carried on, and which further recognized them as States in the Union by the Congressional apportionment act providing for their due representation in Congress; by various tax laws, and especially by the direct tax; by the resolutions submitting amendments to the Constitution for their approval, and by various other acts and resolutions imparting the same recognition, all of which were passed during the accepted session of the new States, by the Judiciary of the United States, which holds Federal Courts in all those States, and especially by the Supreme Court which entertains jurisdiction of cases coming from them, which it could not do were they not in the Union. That being thus in the Union, they stand on an equal footing with their sister States—States with unequal rights being a thing unknown to the Constitution; that, by the express terms of the Constitution, each State is entitled to have two Senators and a due proportion of Representatives in the Congress, and to vote in all elections of President and Vice-president; that though these rights are subject to interruption by a state of civil war, they can not in time of peace, be suspended, much less destroyed, without a plain violation of the Constitution; that Congress has no power to deprive a State of its reserved rights, and reduce it to a Territorial condition; that therefore the exclusion, by the so-called Congress, of all representation from ten States, the proposed exclusion of those States, from all voice in the next Presidential election, the threatened overthrow of their State Governments, and the reduction of their States to the condition of territories, are each and every one of them unconstitutional, revolutionary and despotic measures, destructive, not merely of the rights of those States, but also of the rights of every other State in the Union. That those measures are parts of a plan to nullify the Constitution, virtually overruling the State Governments, to erect a consolidated despotism on the ruins; and to establish a permanent and tyrannical rule of a minority over a majority of the Americans, people. That the people cannot, without a loss of their liberties, prosperity and honor, submit to such a result; and we, therefore, in the hope that the warning will be heeded, and the danger to our institutions be peacefully averted, do solemnly warn the advocates of the plan, that it will not be submitted to.

Resolved. That Congress is not an omnipotent law-making power. That the Constitution provides that no bill shall become a law without the approval of the President unless it be passed by two-thirds of each House of Congress. That one of the objects of the present so-called Congress in excluding States from representation, is to pass a bill by two-thirds of which, which were all the States represented, could never pass; and thus to virtually abolish the constitutional provision aforesaid. That if this precedent be acquiesced in, there will be nothing to prevent a bare majority of Congress, at any time in the future, from nullifying the constitutional veto of the President and usurping uncontrollable legislative power, by an exclusion of the minority from their seats. That the exclusion, of even in a single State, might give this control, and a pretext for such an exclusion would not be wanting to an unscrupulous and evolutionary party.

Resolved. That the people, and especially those of the agricultural States, have suffered too long the exactions of high protective tariffs, and as the representatives of an agricultural and laboring population, we demand that their substance shall no longer be extorted from them in order to fill the pockets of Eastern monopolists.

Resolved. That unequal taxation is contrary to the first principles of justice and sound policy, and we call upon our Governments, Federal and State, to use all necessary Constitutional means to remedy this evil.

Resolved. That the Radical majority in the so-called Congress have proved themselves to be in favor of Negro Suffrage by forcing it upon the people of the District of Columbia against their almost unanimous wish, solemnly expressed at the polls, by forcing it upon the people of all the Territories, and by their various devices to coerce the people of the South to adopt it; that we are opposed to Negro Suffrage, believing it would be productive of evil to both whites and blacks, and tend to produce a disastrous conflict of races.

Resolved. That for all their efforts to uphold the Constitution we tender to the President and to the majority of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States our hearty thanks.

Resolved. That we are in favor of a Democratic Convention of delegates from all the States, to be held at such time and place as may be agreed upon, and that the State Central Committee be authorized to fix time and place, and that we prefer Louisville, Ky., as the place.

Resolved. That the Democratic newspapers of Ohio deserve our earnest and liberal support, and that a steady and thorough organization of the party is indispensable.

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